

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 CAPE T 00277 111854Z

43

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

----- 127076

R 111625Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4466

INFO AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

USUN NEW YORK 983

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAPE TOWN 0277

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: SF, RH, PFOR, PINS

SUBJECT: SOUTH AFRICA AND RHODESIA

1. AT ONE OF FAREWELL DINNERS GIVEN ME IN PRETORIA LAST WEEK I HAD OPPORTUNITY FOR BROAD-RANGING CONVERSATION WITH GENERAL HENDRIK VAN DEN BERGH, DIRECTOR OF SOUTH AFRICA'S BUREAU FOR STATE SECURITY, ONE OF PRIME MINISTER VORSTER'S CLOSEST FRIENDS AND ADVISORS. VAN DEN BERGH, BOTH SEPARATELY AND TOGETHER WITH FOREIGN AFFAIRS SECRETARY BRAND FOURIE, HAS MADE A NUMBER OF SECRET VISITS TO ZAMBIA AND RHODESIA, AS WELL AS TO OTHER COUNTRIES, IN CONNECTION WITH VORSTER'S EFFORTS TO ESTABLISH DETENTE WITH OTHER AFRICAN STATES AND TO ENCOURAGE SETTLEMENT IN RHODESIA. PRESENT WITH VAN DEN BERGH WAS HIS DEPUTY, HANS BRUMMER, AND MAJOR GENERAL MIKE GELDENHUYS, CHIEF OF SECURITY POLICE.

2. VAN DEN BERGH AND HIS DEPUTY WERE BOTH OBVIOUSLY CONCERNED AT EFFECT WHICH IAN SMITH'S DETENTION OF NDABANINGI SITHOLE WOULD HAVE ON PROSPECTS FOR NEGOTIATIONS AND SETTLEMENT IN RHODESIA. VAN DEN BERGH SAID ONLY EVIDENCE RHODESIANS HAD AGAINST SITHOLE AT THIS STAGE WAS SINGLE SWORN AFFIDAVIT OF ANC DEPUTY GABELLAH, BUT HE GAVE NO OTHER DETAILS. HE SEEMED

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 CAPE T 00277 111854Z

DOUBTFUL THEY HAD GOOD CASE TO PROSECUTE IN OPEN TRIAL BUT

AT SAME TIME CONVINCED THAT FAILURE TO TRY CASE OPENLY WOULD DO INESTIMABLE DAMAGE.

3. VAN DEN BERGH SAID IAN SMITH HAD RECENTLY VISITED VORSTER IN SOUTH AFRICA AT WHICH TIME VORSTER MADE IT CRYSTAL CLEAR THAT SOUTH AFRICA WOULD CONTINUE WITHDRAWING SA POLICE FORCES FROM RHODESIA WITHOUT REPLACING THEM. OUT OF THE 1600 POLICE TROOPERS WHO HAD BEEN IN RHODESIA, VAN DEN BERGH SAID, ONLY 720 REMAINED AND THESE HAD ALL BEEN WITHDRAWN FROM BORDER POSITIONS TO THEIR BARRACKS. (PROCESS OF WITHDRAWAL WAS APPARENTLY STILL UNDER WAY AS GENDENHUYS NOTED THAT 5 POLICEMEN HAD JUST BEEN REPORTED WOUNDED BY LAND MINES ON WITHDRAWAL ROUTES; SAG HAS SINCE PUBLICLY CONFIRMED WITHDRAWAL, PER CAPE TOWN 267). SMITH'S REACTION WAS AN ANGRY ASSERTION THAT WHITE RHODESIANS WOULD CONTINUE THEIR STRUGGLE ALONE IF NECESSARY;

4. VAN DEN BERGH SAID THAT THE TWO AFRIKAANS-SPEAKING MEMBERS OF SMITH'S CABINET WOULD BE COMING TO SOUTH AFRICA TO SEE VORSTER WITHIN NEXT SEVERAL DAYS (PRESUMABLY AT SAG INVITATION TO EXPLAIN SITHOLE ARREST) AND WOULD BE IN FOR SOME VERY STRAIGHT TALK. INFORMATION MINISTER CONNIE MULDER AND INFORMATION SECRETARY ESCHEL RHOODIE HAD BEEN BROUGHT INTO THESE DEALING WITH THE RHODESIAN QUESTION AND WOULD ALSO BE TALKING WITH THE VISITORS FROM SALISBURY. VAN DEN BERGH SAID MULDER AND RHOODIE WERE FULLY ON BOARD NOW, ALTHOUGH IT WAS VAN DEN BERGH HIMSELF WHO ALERTED VORSTER TO MULDER'S PLANNED TRIP TO SALISBURY LAST DECEMBER AND PERSUADED VORSTER TO ORDER MULDER NOT TO GO. VAN DEN BERGH SEEMED TO BELIEVE IAN SMITH'S STUBBORN POSITION WAS CAUSED IN PART BY SOME OF SMITH'S MORE REACTIONARY MINISTERS AND THAT A SESSION BETWEEN VORSTER AND THE 2 AFRIKAANS-SPEAKING MINISTERS WOULD BE USEFUL WAY TO SOFTEN THIS INFLUENCE.

5. COMMENT: VAN DEN BERGH EMPHASIZED HIS CLOSENESS TO PRIME MINISTER VORSTER AND HIS ABILITY TO SPEAK FOR VORSTER IN CONTACTS WITH SMITH AND OTHERS. (HE SAID HE WAS THE ONE WHO TOLD SMITH THAT SA POLICE WOULD BE CALLED TO BARRACKS AND THAT VORSTER FULLY ENDORSED HIS ACTION.) HE CONVEYS VERY DEFINITE IMPRESSION THAT VORSTER IS DETERMINED SA SHOULD DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO BRING SMITH TO CONFERENCE TABLE AND KEEP HIM THERE.

HURD
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 CAPE T 00277 111854Z

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DETENTE, POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, POLICE FORCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975CAPET00277
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750085-0304
From: CAPE TOWN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750364/aaaacfah.tel
Line Count: 107
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01 JUL 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <05 NOV 2003 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOUTH AFRICA AND RHODESIA
TAGS: PFOR, PINS, SF, RH, (SITHOLE, NDABANINGI)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006